



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Gary D. Maynard, Director

DATE: March 3, 2004

TO: Beth Lenstra

FROM: Mary A. Benning

SUBJECT: Questions from Justice Systems Appropriations Subcommittee

The following response pertain a question asked of the Department of Corrections during the presentation to the Appropriations Subcommittee for Justice Systems.

Question: Please provide information concerning the potential number of inmates who may qualify for medical parole, including life terms, mandatory minimum sentences, and the general population.

Answer: The following information was compiled solely on the review of a medical and/or mental condition of the offenders only. The medical conditions of the entire Department of Corrections offender population were reviewed to determine the number of offenders who have conditions related to aging, specifically chronic infirmities, illness or diseases. As well, the medical conditions of the offender population were reviewed to identify the number of offenders who have a permanent physical or mental incapacitating condition, including terminal illnesses.

A total number of 28 current offenders appear to qualify for a potential medical parole on the basis of their physical or mental conditions. The age of these offenders range from 19 to 86 years old. Attached is a summary of the individuals, including their offender number, age, ICD-9 database code¹, diagnosis and any equipment needed for daily functioning. These offenders do not reflect a review of the underlying crime, ability of the individual to re-offend, or potential release plans, which may be considerations of the Board of Parole.

The Department of Corrections is still compiling information related to potential costs savings related to the potential release of these offenders.

¹ The ICD-9 is a standard code used in the medical community to identify specific illnesses.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:
Protect the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders